(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Indian resolution in UN General Assembly for global approach on terrorism

1896. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had moved a resolution in the U.N. General Assembly for adopting a convention against international terrorism;

(b) if so, where does that resolution stand at present and whether UN has considered the Indian draft;

(c) by when the world body is going to take up that resolution; and

(d) the measures adopted by the UN to deal with international terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) India circulated the draft of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the 51st session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 1996. This draft Convention, aimed at strengthening international cooperation to combat international terrorism, calls on all States to adopt measures to ensure that criminal acts within the scope of the Convention are, under no circumstances justifiable by considerations of political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other similar nature. The Convention also calls on all States to take all practicable measures to prohibit the establishment and operation of terrorist installations and training camps, and to either prosecute or extradite terrorists.

At the 54th session of the UNGA, in 1999, it was decided that the Indian draft would be taken up for discussion in the Sixth committee of the United Nations. Three rounds of discussions have taken place on this draft Comprehensive Convention since October, 2000. Agreement has been reached on most aspects of the Convention. The UN Secretary-General has also held informal consultations to ensure expenditious finalisation of the Convention. Negotiations are continuing.

The UN General Assembly has adopted a range of measures to deal with international terrorism, including an annual debate on the issue and adoption of a resolution on Measures to Eliminate Terrorism. Twelve Conventions dealing with specific aspects of terrorism have been adopted. The UN Security Council has adopted resolutions, notably UNSCR 1373, on September 28, 2001 which has put in place a series of mandatory measures, to combat international terrorism.

India's shift from non-aligned stand

1897. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has said that india is a natural ally of US;

(b) if so, whether there is a shift from our non-aligned stand towards NATO and US; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The leaders of both India and the United States have stated that the two countries are natural allies, based on shared democratic values, many common interests and growing opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation on bilateral and international issues.

(b) and (c) India's growing relations with the United States is neither the result of nor has caused any change in the well-established principles of India's foreign policy. India's relations with the United States is also not at the expense of time tested and traditionally close friendship with other countries.

Justification for India's support to American action

1898. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that among the Talibans, a huge chunk of them are actually Pakistanis, sponsored and trained by the America's CIA; and